

Notice of Allowability

Application No.

10/017,209

Applicant(s)

DIBBLE ET AL.

Examiner

Alexander Jamal

Art Unit

2643

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. ☒ This communication is responsive to Appeal Brief filed 10-19-2005.
2. ☒ The allowed claim(s) is/are 1-29.
3. ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some* c) ☐ None of the:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

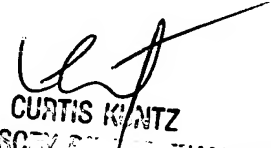
* Certified copies not received: _____.

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.
THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.

4. ☐ A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
5. ☐ CORRECTED DRAWINGS (as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.
- (a) ☐ including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) attached
- 1) ☐ hereto or 2) ☐ to Paper No./Mail Date _____.
- (b) ☐ including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No./Mail Date _____.
- Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).
6. ☐ DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

Attachment(s)

1. ☐ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2. ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3. ☐ Information Disclosure Statements (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08), Paper No./Mail Date _____
4. ☐ Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit of Biological Material
5. ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
6. ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413), Paper No./Mail Date _____
7. ☒ Examiner's Amendment/Comment
8. ☒ Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance
9. ☒ Other PTO-413B.


CURTIS KINTZ
SUPERVISORY ENGINEER
TECHNOLOGY

DETAILED ACTION

Response to Applicant's Amendment

1. Based upon the submitted arguments received 10-19-2005, examiner withdraws all rejections to all claims.
2. Examiner notes an examiner's amendment to claims 28, and 29 listed below.

Examiner's Amendment

3. An examiner's amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes and/or additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided by 37 CFR 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it MUST be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee.

Authorization for this examiner's amendment was given in a telephone interview with John Musone (reg. number 44961) on 11-29-2005.

The application has been amended as follows:

Claims 28,29 have been amended as follows.

28. A network interface device comprising;

a first interface operable to receive at least two incoming calls over a subscriber line;

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a second interface operable to facilitate communication between the first interface and a first telephone line and between the first interface and a second telephone line, the second interface also operable to generate one or more first ring voltages on the first telephone line and one or more second ring voltages on the second telephone line; and

a processor coupled to the first interface and the second interface, the processor operable to:

measure a total instantaneous load placed on the second interface;

compare the total instantaneous load to a determined threshold level; and

if the total instantaneous load exceeds the threshold level, instruct the second interface to generate the first and second ring voltages in response to receiving the incoming calls, the generation of the ring voltages staggered such that the one or more first peak ring voltages on the first telephone line are generated shifted in time at different times than the one or more second peak ring voltages on the second telephone line.

29. A network interface device comprising;

a first interface operable to receive at least two incoming calls over a subscriber line;

a second interface operable to facilitate communication between the first interface and a first telephone line and between the first interface and a second telephone line, the second interface also operable to generate one or more first ring voltages on the first telephone line and one or more second ring voltages on the second telephone line; and

a processor coupled to the first interface and the second interface, the processor operable to:

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determine whether a total load placed on the first and second telephone lines exceeds a threshold load;

transmit a first instruction instructing the second interface to allow a simultaneous generation of the first and second ring voltages on the telephone when the total load placed on the telephone lines does not exceed the threshold load;

transmit a second instruction instructing the second interface to ~~stagger~~ a shift in time the respective peak voltages created by the generation of the first and second ring voltages when the total load placed on the telephone lines exceeds the threshold level; and

switch between the transmissions of the first and second instructions based on the determination.

Allowable Subject Matter

4. **Claims 1-29** are allowed over the prior art of record
5. The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance:

The instant application is deemed to be directed to a nonobvious improvement over the invention patented in Pat. No. 6714644. The improvement comprises the act of staggering (shifting in time) the ring signals of multiple lines by maintaining the preset cadence of the ring signal as opposed to resetting or changing the ring cadence as per Cohn et al.

Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue

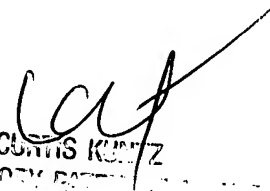
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fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance".

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Alexander Jamal whose telephone number is 571-272-7498. The examiner can normally be reached on M-F 9AM-6PM.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Curtis A Kuntz can be reached on 571-272-7499. The fax phone numbers for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned are **571-273-8300** for regular communications and **571-273-8300** for After Final communications.

AJ
November 29, 2005


CURTIS KUNTZ
SUPERVISORY EXAMINER